



Corridor Program

Congestion Relief & Bus Rapid Transit Projects

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Board Members
Regional Transportation Investment District
411 University St, Suite 1200
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Dear Board Members:

The Executive Committee of the Interstate 405 Corridor Project is pleased to submit its recommendations for the I-405 portion of the Regional Transportation Investment District's funding package.

We have been following closely the RTID Board's discussions about regional needs, and want to assure you that the vision of regional mobility is at the forefront of our thinking. We are convinced that all modes of transportation need to work together as an integrated system. Our expectation has been that the I-405 vision would be possible only through a coordinated effort that would be funded through state, federal, regional and local resources.

We view the RTID program as an unprecedented opportunity to take a major step toward realizing the vision for I-405 – and we view the I-405 project as a cornerstone of the RTID package. In 2002, we adopted strategic principles to guide our decision-making. They include:

- Remain committed to fulfilling the I-405 long-term master plan
- Attack the worst problems first
- Finish complete logical segments
- Make investments throughout the corridor
- Strive for modal balance
- Achieve early actions
- Implement early environmental actions
- Minimize overall costs and risks
- Minimize construction impacts

Our careful approach has resulted in a consensus that spans two counties and seven cities for a series of more than 150 projects that can come together to form a greater whole. Our vision is "right-sized" to efficiently meet the needs of our region, but is designed to be flexible in meeting our future multi-modal transportation needs.

The state legislature has shown leadership by investing in the Nickel Funding Program; it's now the region's turn to step up to the plate. Investment by the RTID will mesh well with the corridor's three state-funded Nickel Projects to relieve congestion on the I-405 corridor by adding capacity, improving safety, supporting freight mobility, and investing in transit. The project improves Interstate 405 between Tukwila and Bothell. Roadway and interchange improvements include two lanes added in each direction from downtown Bellevue south to SR 167 in Renton. One lane will be added each direction from a new I-405/SR 167 interchange both south on SR 167 to S. 180th Street and over to I-5. One lane will also be

added each direction north from SR 520 in Bellevue to SR 522 in Bothell. The projects include HOV direct access ramps, transit stations, park-and-ride lot expansions, purchase of vanpools and buses, bike trail and pedestrian connections, and stream and environmental enhancements.

In short, our program of recommendations is efficient, cost-effective and designed to work in a balanced context with the current and future transportation programs of Sound Transit, King County Metro and local jurisdictions.

Today our transportation system is antiquated, unsafe, unreasonably congested, and it has not kept pace with the needs of our region. With over 10 hours of congestion a day there are unintended consequences to our economy and communities. Our State Growth Management Act recognizes that adequate public facilities are key to maintain livability in our urban areas. Without the RTID investment into facilities that serve the region's urban growth area and developed centers we will affect business decisions and continue the downward cycle of sprawl into less congested areas.

Clearly, I-405 is a critical link in the entire Interstate 5 system that serves the West Coast, Washington State and Central Puget Sound. Our transportation system is the lifeblood of our region, connecting people with their workplaces and goods with trade. It is key to our economic vitality and quality of life. We submit our recommendations with a great deal of pride in our own accomplishment, and enthusiasm for the opportunity presented by the Regional Transportation Investment District.

Sincerely,

George Kargianis
Chair, I-405 Executive Committee